

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/464,449
Response dated April 13, 2004
Reply to OA of January 5, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 9-10 and 13 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **January 5, 2004**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Minakuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,001).

The present invention is an image formation device. This device includes an image storage device, a read-out device, an image transfer unit, and an accuracy information storage device. The image storage device stores image information. The read-out device assigns an image read-out position for the image storage device. The image transfer unit transfers the image to paper. The accuracy information storage device stores position accuracy information in the scanning direction of the image transfer unit. The position accuracy information is curvature correction information or dot-pitch correction information and oblique correction information.

Minakuchi et al. describes a scanning optical device that has correction data to compensate for the amount a spot beam is shifted due to curvature that varies according to scan

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/464,449
Response dated April 13, 2004
Reply to OA of January 5, 2004

position in the main scanning direction. Minakuchi et al. also mentions the use of a photoconductive drum (210) in which an image may be transferred.

Minakuchi et al. fails to describe that the position accuracy information includes oblique correction information as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“An image formation apparatus comprising: an image storage means for storing image information; a read-out means for assigning an image information read-out position of the image storage means to read out the image information; an image transfer unit for transferring an image onto a paper in accordance with the image information read out by the read-out means from the image storage means; and an accuracy information storage means for storing position accuracy information in a scanning direction of the image transfer unit, wherein the read-out means has a means for reading out the position accuracy information from the accuracy information storage means and correcting the image information read-out position by the position accuracy information, wherein the position accuracy information stored in the accuracy information storage means is a combination of curvature correction information and/or dot-pitch correction information and oblique correction information of the image transfer unit.”

(Emphasis Added)

Regarding claim 13, the image transfer unit can be freely replaced with a new one because the image transfer unit itself has the means for storing the curvature correction information and/or the dot-pitch correction information. This particular claimed feature is not taught by Minakuchi, et al. Therefore, claim 13 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Minakuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,001) is respectfully requested.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/464,449
Response dated April 13, 2004
Reply to OA of January 5, 2004

Conclusion

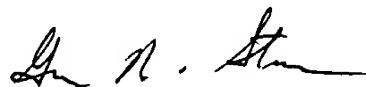
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-3, 9-10 and 13, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



George N. Stevens
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 36,938

GNS/alw
Atty. Docket No. 991430
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE